

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07861 01 OF 02 171055Z

12

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 PER-03 MMO-04 SP-02 SSO-00

/038 W

----- 045159

R 171045Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8864

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 07861

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, FR

SUBJECT: PIT POSITIONS

REF: STATE 055206, PARIS 06397

1. I AM DISTURBED AT LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OF DEPARTMENT'S INABILITY TO MEET OUR REQUEST FOR SUMMER PIT POSITIONS IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR WHEN CONSULAR WORKLOAD PROMISES TO BE EVEN HIGHER THAN INCREASES PREDICTED IN LAST APRIL'S "CONSULAR PACKAGE".
2. AS POINTED OUT IN PARIS 06397, DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORIZED FEWER PIT POSITIONS THIS YEAR THAN LAST IN SPITE OF DRAMATIC INCREASES IN VOLUME THIS YEAR, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS VISAS.
3. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH THE FIVE CONSULATES AND CONFIRMED (PARA. 3 PARIS 06397) THAT INCREASES IN NIV'S IN PARIS DURING FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF CURRENT FISCAL YEAR OVER SAME FIVE MONTHS LAST YEAR ARE NOT ONLY REFLECTED IN THE PROVINCES BUT ARE RUNNING EVEN HIGHER THAN HERE: 52 PERCENT HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR IN LYON; 38 PERCENT IN MARSEILLE AND BORDEAUX; 36 PERCENT IN STRASBOURG AND 35 PERCENT IN NICE.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 07861 01 OF 02 171055Z

4. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THESE TRENDS WILL

CONTINUE OR ACCELERATE THROUGHOUT THE SECOND HALF OF THE FISCAL YEAR. THUS, ESTIMATES WE MADE A YEAR AGO FOR "CONSULAR PACKAGE", ALTHOUGH FORECASTING CONSIDERABLE INCREASES, NOW APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONSERVATIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE NOW BELIEVE NIV CASELOAD IN PARIS WILL REACH, OR TOP, 115,000 (VICE THE 101,000 PREDICTED LAST YEAR) WITH A RESULTANT ADDITION OF 4200 MANHOURS REQUIRED TO PROCESS THIS INCREASE. TO THIS MUST BE ADDED AN ADDITIONAL 633 OFFICER HOURS NEEDED TO COPE WITH THE RISING REFUSAL RATE (6.1 PERCENT THIS FISCAL YEAR AS OPPOSED TO 3.9 PERCENT FOR FY 1975) FOR A TOTAL OF 4833 MANHOURS (1802 U.S.; 3031 FSL).

5. WHILE INCREASES IN OTHER CONSULAR SERVICES ARE NOT AS DRAMATIC AS IN VISAS, THEY NONETHELESS ARE BEING CHALKED UP IN ALL POSTS IN FRANCE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO WITH RESPECT TO NOTARIALS WHERE OVERSEAS VOTING RIGHTS ACT IS HAVING SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON VOLUME.

6. IN 1972 EMBASSY PARIS NOTARIZED VOTING FORMS FOR 2000 AMERICANS. WITH LIBERALIZED ABSENTEE VOTING PROCEDURES, LOCAL AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS EXPECT 7000 TO 8000 OUT OF AN ESTIMATED ADULT AMERICAN POPULATION OF 12000 IN PARIS CONSULAR DISTRICT TO VOTE. WHEN "CONSULAR PACKAGE" WAS SUBMITTED LAST APRIL, WE COULD NOT FORESEE PASSAGE OF VOTING ACT AND THEREFORE OUR

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07861 02 OF 02 171057Z

12

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 PER-03 MMO-04 SP-02 SSO-00

/038 W

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R 171045Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8865

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 07861

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

WORKLOAD ESTIMATES DID NOT TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION.

7. I AM WELL AWARE OF IMPORTANCE DEPARTMENT ATTACHES (AS INDEED DO I) TO PUBLIC RELATION. IN CONSULAR WORK. DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN IN THIS REGARD WAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED IN AIRGRAM NO. 4990 OF JULY 21, 1975. FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS CURRENTLY IN FRANCE HAVE REITERATED IT TO US.

8. EVEN IF DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE US NO HELP, I WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT MY STAFF, NO MATTER HOW OVERWORKED, TREAT THE PUBLIC COURTEOUSLY. HOWEVER, IF SERVICES HAVE TO BE CURTAILED OR DELAYED OR DEGRADED IN QUALITY, IT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS. AND THIS APPLIES TO AMERICANS AS WELL AS FOREIGNERS, BECAUSE EVEN IF OUR PRINCIPAL WORKLOAD INCREASES ARE IN VISAS, WE WILL HAVE TO SHIFT CONSULAR RESOURCES FROM THOSE UNITS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH SERVICES TO AMERICANS.

9. I NOTE FROM STATE 055206 THAT SCA IS REVIEWING ADEQUACY OF EMBASSY'S CONSULAR STAFFING. I HOPE MY VIEWS, AS EXPRESSED ABOVE, WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN THIS REVIEW.  
RUSH

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